IM Weekly Highlights

- Kevin Bruski, Montana SWIC representative, attended the Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWIC) conference in Utah sponsored by the National Governor's Association. The focus of the conference was on meeting Goal 2 of the National Communications Plan and to discuss county and city requirements.
- The VC Pass replacement tower foundation was poured this week.
- Microwave antennas were installed at the Beaverhead EOC and Bull Mountain sites for the PSIC-2 & 3 projects.
- The new shelter for the Antelope Butte site was installed this week.

Telecommunicator Spotlight is on Kim Burdick

By. E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Montana's APCO Chapter National Executive Council Representative, Kimberly Burdick, is featured in this month's *Public Safety Communications* magazine, the official publication of APCO International, Inc. Kim is the Communications Manager for the Chouteau County Sheriff's Office.

Learn about her passion for dispatching in the article, which is available at one of these links: http://www.apcointl.org/digitaledition/ (for members) or http://interop.mt.gov/im_education_and_outreach.mcpx. Congratulations, Kim!

1033 Program to Transfer to the Montana Highway Patrol

By Dan Sullivan dsullivan@mt.gov

The 1033 Program is a federal surplus program that helps local law enforcement agencies (LEA) acquire excess equipment from the Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO), Department of Defense (DoD). The Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB) has administered the program for the past several years, but a decision was made earlier this year to transfer the program to the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP). Because MHP works on a daily basis with local law enforcement, it is better equipped to deal with weapon requests and transfers, which is a main component of the 1033 Program.

The LESO Office has asked for a nation-wide audit of all controlled property. PSSB is in the process of sending property verification letters to 68 LEAs to verify their controlled property inventories. LEAs are asked to promptly verify that the property is in their custody, and to sign and return the property verification memorandum as soon as possible.

PSSB is in the process of updating more than 100 program files in preparation for the transfer by the end of this month. Sheriffs, police and other law enforcement agencies enrolled in 1033 will be notified of new 1033 program contacts by Aug. 1, 2010. If you have any questions about the 1033 program or the transfer to MHP, please contact Dan Sullivan at 406-444-3581 or via e-mail at: dsullivan@mt.gov.

New Radio System Administrator in Lewis & Clark County

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Charlie Gilmore is Lewis and Clark County's new Radio System Administrator. He and his family are in the process of moving here from the Bozeman area where he was formerly employed as a lead technician with Mountain Communications. Previously, he supervised a High Speed Data Dept. with AT&T.

The Radio System Administrator position was appealing to him because it is a good fit with his skills and experience. He has worked on Motorola master sites before and was familiar with the master controller site in Helena. He has participated in several trunked RF site installations. He also is certified to work on Harris-Stratex eclipse microwave equipment. In addition, Charlie is familiar with many of the Interoperability Montana folks. He looks forward to building good solid relationships with participating agencies to make sure everyone is working together.

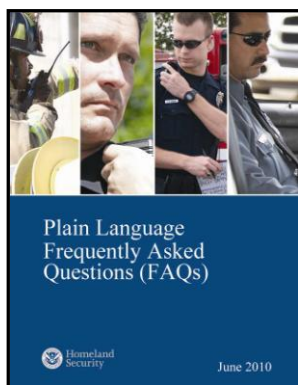Charlie hails from Colorado, but said it was

Public Safety Services Bureau
125 N. Roberts St., Mitchell Building, Rm. 52
P O Box 200113
Helena MT 59620-0113

HEARD ACROSS MONTANA
-1-

Editor: Elizabeth Wing Spooner
Special Projects Coordinator
espooner@mt.gov
(406) 444-2491

getting too crowded for him to enjoy his hobbies of camping, hunting and fishing. So, he moved to Montana about 12 years ago. Charlie is a private pilot, flying in single-engine aircraft. In addition, he enjoys spending time with his two young boys.

Here is Charlie's contact information: Phone: (406) 447-8249; E-mail: cgilmore@co.lewis-clark.mt.us. Welcome aboard, Charlie!

Plain Language: Frequently Asked Questions New Publication

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The use of plain language is a critical piece of the interoperability puzzle. Last year the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) sponsored a Plain Language Working Group, comprised of more than 40 stakeholders from across the country, representing multiple-disciplines. The agency recently released the publication, *Plain Language Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs),* as a supplement to the *Plain Language Guide* published in July 2008.

This new document makes the business case for agencies transitioning—or planning to transition—to plain language. It includes the results of independent research as well as specific examples of lessons learned and smart practices from stakeholders who have implemented plain language. The publication is now available on the SAFECOM website at this link: http://www.safecomprogram.gov/SAFECOM/library/interoperabilitybasics/1617_plainlanguage.htm.

A key component of interoperable communications is the ability to communicate using plain language. What is it? Plain Language is defined as: "communication that can be understood by the intended audience and meets the purpose of the communicator." The publication goes on to say, "The potential impact of not having standard common terminology is that the language or terms used may be unique to one jurisdiction or discipline and, therefore, may not be common to others outside of that group. As a result, interoperability may not be improved during mutual aid events."

Clearly, the use of plain language in daily operations enhances the responder's ability to support a mutual aid event. Also, it is consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Sept. 10, 2009 alert that states, "the use of plain language in emergency response is a matter of public safety, especially the safety of first responders and those affected by the incident."

Upcoming Meetings

- **Mon., July 19**
  Central Consortium (CMICC)
  Lewistown ● 9:00 am - noon
  City Complex, 305 W. Watson
- **Tues.-Thurs., July 20, July 21 & July 22**
  CASM July Training
  Online ● 11:00 am – noon
  ○ Tues., July 20 – Basic Functions
  ○ Wed., July 21 – Inventory Display/Map Use
  ○ Thurs., July 22 – What-if Analysis
  https://franz.spawar.navy.mil/forums/viewtopic.php?f=25&t=92
  Must be a registered CASM user
- **Tues., July 20**
  Northern Tier - East
  Wolf Point ● 9:00 am - noon
  Senior Citizen Center, 124 Custer
- **Wed., July 21**
  Eastern Tier Consortium
  Sidney ● 9:00 am - noon
  Richland Co. Law & Justice Center
  300 12th Ave. N.W.
- **Fri., July 23**
  South Central Montana Consortium (SCMICC)
  Bozeman ● 10:00 am - noon
  Bozeman Fire Station # 3,
  1705 VaqueroParkway.
- **Mon., July 26**
  IM Technical Committee (IMTC)
  Helena ● 9:00 am – 3:00
  MACo Large Conf. Rm., Lower Level, 2715 Skyway Dr.
- **Mon., July 26**
  I-15/90 Corridor and Tri-County Consortia
  Butte ● 9:00 am - noon
  Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St.
- **Tues., July 27**
  Western Consortium (WICC)
  Missoula ● 9:00 am - noon
  Missoula Co. Courthouse, 200 W. Broadway, Rm. 374
- **Wed., July 28**
  Northern Tier - West
  Kalispell ● 9:00 am - noon
  Flathead County EOC
  800 South Main St.
- **Thurs., July 29**
  Big Sky 11 Consortium
  Billings ● 9:00 am - noon
  Yellowstone County EOC, 2305 8th Ave. North